

SUMMARY ON ASI 1 DATA REQUESTS AND RESPECTIVE USE

Issue: ASI 1 data requests and respective use

Background

The ASI project was a collaborative effort among riparian countries, national scientists, and over 40 national and international organisations, conducted from 2017 to 2022. Aerial and boat surveys, carried out during the summers of 2018 and 2019 applied a standardised methodological approach, resulting in an unprecedented dataset, across almost the entire ACCOBAMS area, on distribution and abundance of cetaceans, other marine megafauna, human activities and floating macro-litter.

ASI has made significant contributions to international outreach in marine conservation efforts in the ACCOBAMS area by data sharing and publishing of peer-review scientific papers and technical documents. Moreover, various types of stakeholders (including governments, scientists, managers, and NGOs) have benefitted from the ASI data to address local, national, and regional conservation objectives.

The above table summarizes requests for ASI data received by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat since 2019.

Requests for the Mediterranean and Black Sea ASI data received by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat since 2019 (updated October 2024).

NB	Request holder	Species / object	Type of data	Intended research
1	St Andrews University, UK Jonathan Reid	Sperm whale	Acoustic data	MSc Thesis: Measuring body length of sperm whales (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>) in the Mediterranean from their clicks.
2	Centre d'Écologie Fonctionnelle et Évolutive / École Pratique des Hautes Études (CEFE/EPHE), France Gaëlle Darmon, Jeremy Mansui, Claude Miaud	Marine litter Sea turtles	Raw Boat and aerial	Risky areas of litter impacts for sea turtles at the Mediterranean basin level
3	McLaughlin Research Corporation , USA Andrew DiMatteo	Sea turtles	Raw Boat and aerial	A loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) spatial density model for the Mediterranean Sea derived from multiple survey platforms
4	European Topic Centre – University of Malaga (ETC-UMA), Spain Dania Abdul Malak	Marine litter, Cetaceans Sea turtles	Boat and aerial	Marine litter pressures in the Mediterranean Sea. <i>ASI data will be supporting the visualization and meta-analysis of status of the pressures of marine litter on Mediterranean marine biota</i>
5	University of Siena, Italy Cristina Fossi	Marine litter Cetaceans Other megafauna sp.	Boat and plane	Identification of Marine litter Hot spot areas and interaction with Biota (PlasticBusters MPAs Interreg –Med Project context)
6	Institute of Marine Science (ICM-CSIC), Spain Joan Giménez	Short-beaked common dolphin	Boat and aerial	Niche conservatism in cetaceans: common dolphins in European waters as a case study
7	Observatoire Pelagis, Université de La Rochelle, France Auriane Virgili / Vincent Ridoux and collaborative work with INAT, ENIT, ESSAI, Tunisia;	Beaked whale sperm whale	Boat and aerial	Processes underlying beaked whale and sperm whale hotspots to inform naval training planning in the aim to avoid interaction with impulse noise sources
8	Israel Marine Mammal Research and Assistance Center (<i>IMMRAC</i>) Dani Kerem	Rough-toothed dolphin	Boat	To be mentioned in a chapter on rough-toothed dolphin in a forthcoming Springer book on the marine mammals of Europe
9	WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative Simone Niedermueller	Sharks and rays	Aerial	Evaluation of shark and ray occurrence data to inform WWF conservation strategy
10	Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET) Vicky Rae & Eleana Touloupaki	Sea turtles	Aerial	MAVA Funded: Increasing knowledge on the Sea Turtle population within the northern Aegean.
11	Open University, Germany Judith Matz – Student	Marine litter	Boat	BSc course report on ‘Distribution of plastic pollution across the Mediterranean Sea’.
12	Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement Costanza Favilli – Executive Secretary	Cetaceans Marine Litter	Boat and aerial	Cetaceans and marine litter distribution and abundance in the Pelagos Sanctuary
13	University of Exeter, UK David March	Cetaceans Sea turtles, Fish, Rays, Marine litter	Boat and aerial	MOVEMED: Linking Human Mobility and Marine Megafauna Movement in the Mediterranean Sea for a better integration of Blue Growth
14	WWF France Denis Ody	Fin Whale, Sperm whale	Aerial	Evaluation des risques de collisions entre grand cétacés et trafic maritime sur la zone du projet de Zone Maritime Particulièrement Vulnérable (ZMPV) en Méditerranée Nord-Ouest.
15	EcoOcéan Institut, France	Bottlenose dolphin	Aerial	Consultation prior to the public debate on the development of floating wind power farm in the Mediterranean Sea over the shelf of the Gulf of Lion.

16	Istanbul University, Institute of Graduate Studies in Science and Engineering, Marine Biology program	Cetaceans Marine litter	Aerial	An abundance and distribution study of small cetaceans and marine litter in the Turkish part of the Mediterranean Sea using a species distribution modeling
17	Institut National d'Agronomie de Tunis/Observatoire Pelagis Université de La Rochelle	All	Boat and aerial	Ecosystemic and anthropogenic drivers of Mediterranean megafauna species assemblage spatial patterns
18	Office Français pour la Biodiversité	All species and marine litter	Boat and aerial	taking into account the environmental stakes for the off-shore wind turbine to be set up off the Gulf of Lion.
19	Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute	All cetacean species	Boat and plane Acoustic	Current knowledge on the cetaceans in the Greek Seas with emphasis on sperm whales
20	Cerema Eau, mer et fleuves, France Nathalie METZLER	All	Aerial	Technical document for proposal ZMPV Cetaceans in the Mediterranean in IMO
21	CREOCEAN, France Thibault Schwartz	Cetaceans and Seabirds	Boat and aerial	Study for the French Ministry of the Environment (Energy-Climate Department) to help in the selection process of future offshore windfarms in the Mediterranean Sea.
22	MCR (UK) & PELAGIS (France)	Cetaceans	Boat and aerial Acoustics	Modelling cetacean habitat: the merits and challenges of combining acoustic and visual observational data
23	MIRACETI, France Léa JURET / Hélène LABACH	Cetaceans	Aerial	Research and development contract relating to the implementation of a monitoring program for the bottlenose dolphin within the Cap Corse and Agriate Marine Nature Park
24	CNRS Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive, Montpellier, France Olivier Gimenez	Fin Whales	Aerial	Combining data to estimate fin whales spatial density
25	SHOM Laura Ceyrac (Project manager underwater acoustic_Thematic Manager assistant of underwater noise descriptor MSFD)	Marine turtles, marine litter	Boat and aerial	Assessment of cumulated risks of marine litter and anthropogenic noise on marine turtles in Mediterranean Sea.
26	Office Français de la Biodiversité Marine Natural Park of the Gulf of Lions Camille ASSALI, Task officer within the MSPMED project https://mस्पmed.eu ,	megafauna, i.e. seabirds, land birds, cetaceans, sea turtles, large fishes, selacians.	Boat and aerial Acoustics	MSPMED task 2.2, deliverable 2.7 : France and Spain: knowledge synthesis about ecological stakes related with birds, mammals and deep habitats
27	University of Siena Maria Cristina Fossi	Marine Litter, megafauna	Boat and plane survey	Identification of Marine litter Hot spot areas and interaction with Biota (PlasticBusters MPAs Interreg –Med Project)
28	PELAGIS / MCR	Sperm whale and beaked whale	Boat and acoustic	Processes underlying beaked whale and sperm whale hotspots from acoustic detections to inform naval training planning in the aim to avoid interaction with impulse noise sources.
29	PELAGIS Lola Gilbert	Cetacean	Aerial	PhD thesis Role of marine mammals in nutrient flows and carbon storage
30	Bangor University James Waggitt and Peter Evans	Birds	aerial	Distribution modelling and environmental associations of Balearic and Yelkouan Shearwater in the northeast Atlantic and western Mediterranean.
31	Tour du Valat CHAMPAGNON Jocelyn	Birds	Aerial	MIGRALION - Characterization of the use of the Gulf of Lion by terrestrial migrants and marine avifauna using complementary methods
32	MIRACETI Julie Jourdan	Cetacean	Aerial	Cetaceans' spatio-temporal distribution within Calanques national park
33	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) Antoine Chabrolle	Birds	Aerial	Report for the evaluation of the 3rd cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) - 2024

34	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) Timothée Poupart	Birds	Aerial	Coherence of the french Natura 2000 network for seabird conservation
35	Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie Marwen Abderrahim	Marine turtles, human activities marine litter,	Boat and plane survey	Assessment of nuisance sources affecting marine turtles populations on the Tunisian Coasts.
36	Spanish Herpetological Association (AHE) Juan A. Camiñas	Marine turtles	Boat and aerial	Challenges in managing and mitigating sea turtle bycatch, in pelagic longline and purse seine fleets (RFMOs from the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and the Mediterranean Sea).
37	Tethys Research Institute Simone Panigada	Cetaceans	Aerial	Spatial models in the Hellenic Trench and Ionian Sea
38	Politecnico di Milano - Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Arianna Azzellino	Cetaceans	Aerial	Testing applicability of the methodologies and tools of QUIETSEAS to promote the consolidation of indicators by performing an operational pilot on GES (Good Ecological Status) assessment for D11 (D11C1 and D11C2)
39	Observatoire Pelagis, La Rochelle, France Auriane Virgili / Vincent Ridoux	Cetaceans	Boat and aerial	Processes underlying cetacean hotspots to inform naval training planning in the aim to avoid interaction with impulse noise sources.
40	CNRS, Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive (CEFE) Martha Mac Call and David Grémillet	Seabirds	Aerial	Production of habitat preference models and habitat change models (BIRDMOVE project)
41	Direction générale de l'énergie et du climat – Ministère de la transition énergétique Julie Pidoux	Marine megafauna species	Boat and aerial	Report on environment for public debates on offshore wind farm planning
42	MIRACETI DONEY Marine	Cetaceans	Aerial	Testing a methodology for estimating and quantifying anthropogenic impacts on cetaceans in marine protected areas
43	ISMAR – CNR Italy Elisabeth De Maio	Cetaceans	Aerial	Cumulative effects assessment case study for the Black Sea within the project H2020 BRIDGE-BS
44	University "La Sapienza" Ricci Aurora	Sea turtles	Aerial	Development of a spatial distribution model for sea turtles (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)
45	ENS Paris-Saclay/Sorbonne Université/Università degli studi di Napoli "Parthenope" BRISSE Noé	Cetaceans	Boat and aerial	Study of the interactions between mesoscale (1 to 100 km) oceanographic dynamics and the distribution and movements of sperm whales and fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea.
46	TerrOïko Victor Gauducheau	Cetaceans	Boat and aerial	ModelCet, a publicly funded research project, initiated by the Office Français de la Biodiversité and funded the Observatoire des Énergies de la mer